

**From:** scottwquigley@netscape.net@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/1/02 10:10am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I have been following the Microsoft Anti-trust case now for quite some time, and feel the need to offer some input on the subject. My hope is that you will give due consideration to input that I and others from the public community offer, as the decisions made by the judicial system will have a significant impact on the consumers' ability to choose products that meet our needs at reasonable prices.

Civil Action No. 98-1232, (Antitrust), COMPLAINT devotes a significant amount of text to the subject of the "bundling" of Microsoft products in its operating system. The main argument seems to be that, by including products such as Windows Media Player and Internet Explorer on PC's using the Windows Operating System, consumers are prevented from using other products. This is absurd. I am writing this e-mail from a computer running Windows 98 Second Edition, which came "bundled" with IE, but I am writing this e-mail from a Netscape 6.2 browser window. I normally use IE, not Netscape. However, after reading the text of the Complaint, I decided to see just how hard it is to get Netscape onto my machine and use it. I found Netscape to be free, with the task of downloading and installing to be quite simple. Further, I was able to eliminate IE from my machine using the Windows Add/Remove function in its control panel. (I have since subsequently downloaded and insatalled IE back to my machine for free, with equal simplicity). I found it interesting that Netscape came with AOL Instant Messenger (AIM) "bundled" with it! Frankly, I believe the charges against Microsoft are being generated by individuals that do not have the first idea of how to use computers and the internet. If they did, they would know how ridiculous these charges are.

"Bundling" is a common practice in one of the largest industries in the US and the world - the automobile industry. Imagine going to a dealer and trying to buy an automobile with a Cadillac body, Ferrari interior, Porsche engine, and a Ford transmission. Not possible. We can't pick which brand fuel injectors we want, which brand audio system we want, which brand tires we want, which brand paint we want, or which brand suspension components we want. We choose a package. If we don't like a particular package, we go to another dealer and choose a different one.

The freedom to choose which package we want is the freedom that needs to be protected. Years ago, when the Chrysler Motor Corporation was on the verge of failing, we protected this freedom bailing them out. We did NOT try to protect this freedom by forcing GM and Ford to be broken into smaller groups, nor by forcing GM and Ford to stop "bundling" so as to allow consumers to ask for Chrysler components to be included on

their GM or Ford products. Why, then, are we trying to take these actions against Microsoft? The fact that no other product is being offered that competes with Microsoft is, perhaps, reason to provide some sort of initiative to potential competitors, but certainly not to order the breakup of Microsoft or to force them to stop "bundling". Browsers and media players are as much an integral part of a computer as engines and transmissions are for automobiles. Microsoft should be able to provide the packages that they choose to offer, as they are doing now, based on the wants and needs of the users.

I urge you to consider carefully the comments I have provided, and all others offered by the public through this and other avenues. I appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments to you. I look forward to your decisions on these matters.

Sincerely,

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